

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An access authentication system for authenticating access to a first wireless local area network (W-LAN), the operator of which administers a visitor authentication, authorization and accounting (VAAA) server, wherein:

a user requesting visiting access to the first W-LAN, and having a mobile telephone, ~~with~~ a valid cellular mobile account, a portable computing device with a browser, and a registration with a second W-LAN operator that administers a home authentication, authorization and accounting (HAAA) server, conveys to the VAAA server, by user intervention, identity information sufficient to enable said VAAA server to communicate with said HAAA server so as to authenticate the proposed connection;

said HAAA issues a personal identification number (PIN);

the PIN is encoded and forwarded to the user's mobile telephone and transferred to the browser to authenticate the requested visiting access to the W-LAN;

the cost of such access is billed to the user's cellular mobile account; and

the requested access is achieved via the user's browser.

Claim 2. (Original) A system according to Claim 1 wherein the transfer of the PIN to the browser is effected manually by the user.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1 wherein the portable computing device is coupled to the mobile telephone, and the transfer of the PIN to the browser is effected automatically by means including software supported by the portable computing device.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the PIN issued by the HAAA is encoded and forwarded to the user's mobile telephone by means of a short message service center.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the user employs the browser to convey said identity information, via the first W-LAN, to the VAAA.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the PIN is combined with masking information.

Claim 7. (Original) A system according to Claim 6 wherein said masking information is randomly derived.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the user calls the VAAA on the mobile telephone.

Claim 9. (Original) A system according to Claim 8 wherein the telephone call from said user is routed to the HAAA through a premium rate call unit.

Claim 10. (Cancelled)